

The benefit of the earlier filing dates of the
aforementioned applications is hereby claimed.

In the Claims:

Please add the following claims:

B1
71. A method of anchoring a suture, said method comprising
freeze drying body tissue, inserting a suture into a passage in the freeze
dried body tissue, and inserting the freeze dried body tissue into a
patient's body with the suture extending into the passage in the freeze
dried body tissue.

Q2
72. A method as set forth in claim 71 wherein said step of freeze
drying the body tissue includes removing liquid from the body tissue.

73. A method as set forth in claim 71 further including the step of
forming a sheet of body tissue and removing a portion from the sheet of
body tissue.

74. A method as set forth in claim 71 further including the step of
rotating a cutting tool and moving the rotating cutting tool into body
tissue.

75. A method as set forth in claim 74 further including the step of
rotating a thin elongated member and moving the rotating thin elongated
member into the body tissue.

76. A method as set forth in claim 75 wherein said steps of rotating a cutting tool and moving the rotating cutting tool into the body tissue and said steps of rotating a thin elongated member and moving the rotating thin elongated member into body tissue are performed together.

77. A method as set forth in claim 71 further including the step of removing cartilage from a body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the cartilage.

78. A method as set forth in claim 71 further including the step of removing at least a portion of a tendon from a body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the tendon.

79. A method as set forth in claim 71 further including the step of removing at least a portion of a bone from a body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the bone.

80. A method as set forth in claim 71 wherein said step of inserting the freeze dried body tissue into a patient's body includes moving the freeze dried body tissue into the patient's body with a first end portion of the freeze dried body tissue leading and a second end portion of the freeze dried body tissue trailing and applying force against the second end portion of the freeze dried body tissue.

81. A method as set forth in claim 71 wherein said step of freeze drying body tissue includes forming a sheet of freeze dried body tissue, said method further includes moving a member into the sheet of freeze dried body tissue.

82. A method as set forth in claim 71 further including the step of cutting body tissue of an animal other than a human, said step of inserting the freeze dried body tissue into a patient's body includes inserting the freeze dried body tissue into a human patient's body.

83. A method as set forth in claim 71 wherein said step of inserting the freeze dried body tissue into a patient's body includes positioning the freeze dried body tissue in the patient's body at a location where the freeze dried body tissue is exposed to body fluid to enable the freeze dried body tissue to absorb body fluid.

84. A method as set forth in claim 71 further including the step of removing bone from the patient's body, said step freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the bone removed from the patient's body.

85. A method as set forth in claim 71 further including the step of removing bone from a body other than the patient's body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the bone removed from a body other than the patient's body.

86. A method as set forth in claim 71 further including the steps of placing the body tissue in a press, and operating the press to apply pressure against the body tissue in the press to shape the body tissue in the press during operation of the press, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying body tissue removed from the press.

87. A method as set forth in claim 71 further including the step of piercing freeze dried body tissue to at least partially form the passage.

88. A method as set forth in claim 71 further including the step of moving a cutting tool to cut freeze dried body tissue and at least partially form a surface of the freeze dried body tissue.

89. A method as set forth in claim 71 wherein said step of inserting the freeze dried body tissue into the patient's body includes moving the freeze dried body tissue into the patient's body with the freeze dried body tissue in a first orientation, and applying force against the freeze dried body tissue to pivot the freeze dried body tissue from the first orientation to a second orientation while the freeze dried body tissue is in the patient's body.

90. A method as set forth in claim 89 wherein said step of applying force against the freeze dried body tissue includes tensioning the suture.

91. A method of retaining portions of first and second tissue elements in a patient's body against movement relative to each other, said method comprising the steps of freeze drying body tissue, engaging at least one of the first and second tissue elements in the patient's body with the freeze dried body tissue, and transmitting force between the first and second tissue elements through the freeze dried body tissue.

92. A method as set forth in claim 91 wherein said step of freeze drying the body tissue includes removing liquid from the body tissue.

93. A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of forming a sheet of body tissue and removing a portion from the sheet of body tissue.

94. A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of rotating a cutting tool and moving the rotating cutting tool into body tissue.

95. A method as set forth in claim 94 further including the step of rotating a thin elongated member and moving the rotating thin elongated member into the body tissue.

96. A method as set forth in claim 95 wherein said steps of rotating a cutting tool and moving the rotating cutting tool into the body tissue and said steps of rotating a thin elongated member and moving the rotating thin elongated member into body tissue are performed together.

97. A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of removing cartilage from a body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the cartilage.

98. A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of removing at least a portion of a tendon from a body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the tendon.

99. A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of removing at least a portion of a bone from a body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the bone.

100. A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of moving the freeze dried body tissue into the patient's body with a first end portion of the freeze dried body tissue leading and a second end portion of the freeze dried body tissue trailing and applying force against the second end portion of the freeze dried body tissue.

101. A method as set forth in claim 91 wherein said step of freeze drying body tissue includes forming a sheet of freeze dried body tissue, said method further includes moving a member into the sheet of freeze dried body tissue.

102. A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of cutting body tissue of an animal other than a human, said step of engaging at least one of the first and second tissue elements in a patient's body includes inserting the freeze dried body tissue into a human patient's body.

103. A method as set forth in claim 91 wherein said step of engaging at least one of the first and second tissue elements in a patient's body includes positioning the freeze dried body tissue in the patient's body at a location where the freeze dried body tissue is exposed to body fluid to enable the freeze dried body tissue to absorb body fluid.

104. A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of removing bone from the patient's body, said step freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the bone removed from the patient's body.

105. A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of removing bone from a body other than the patient's body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the bone removed from a body other than the patient's body.

106. A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the steps of placing the body tissue in a press, and operating the press to apply pressure against the body tissue in the press to shape the body tissue in the press during operation of the press, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying body tissue removed from the press.

107. A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of piercing freeze dried body tissue to at least partially form a passage in the freeze dried body tissue.

108. A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of moving a cutting tool to cut freeze dried body tissue and at least partially form a surface of the freeze dried body tissue.